

D-21382



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/730,925

Group Art Unit: 3676

Inventors: Dan Dalton

Filed: 12/10/2003

Title: TREATMENT OF
OIL WELLS

Examiner: Walker, Zakiya Nicole

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant hereby responds to the Official Action mailed September 20, 2005 in this application.

As claim 1 is being amended herein, the full text of all claims is attached to this Amendment.

Reconsideration of claims 1-8 is respectfully requested.

For ease of reference, claim 1 (the sole independent claim) is presented here, including the amendments to claim 1:

1. A method for removing hydrocarbon solids from an oil well comprising

(a) feeding **into an oil well** having hydrocarbon solids therein a feed composition comprising at least 40 vol.% dense phase carbon dioxide and at least 30 vol.% of alkanol selected from the group consisting of alkanols containing 1 to 3 carbon atoms and mixtures thereof, and optionally one or more surfactants, under a pressure of 300 to 10,000 psia and a temperature of 90°F to 120°F,

(b) allowing the feed composition to remain **in the well**, whereby hydrocarbon solids in the well solubilize with said composition, and then